

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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SUBJECT: CONVOCAION OF SPECIAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING
ON COOPERATION IN ENFORCEMENT OF TUNA CONSERVATION

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MEASURES IN EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC.

1. AT THE 14TH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON CONSERVATION OF YELLOWFIN TUNA, HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., NOVEMBER 12-16, 1973, IN CONJUNCTION WITH 29TH MEETING OF INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC), THE UNITED STATES REQUESTED THAT AN ITEM BE PLACED ON AGENDA RELATING TO THE QUESTION OF EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE COMMISSION'S CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS BY ALL NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE FISHERY. SUCH AN ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA AND UNITED STATES DELEGATION TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN OVER THIS PROBLEM AND TO SUBMIT FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALL GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED A DRAFT PROPOSAL ON COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT. THIS PROPOSAL, ALONG WITH EXPLANATORY TELEGRAM, WAS CIRCULATED TO THESE GOVERNMENTS SEVERAL WEEKS PRIOR TO WASHINGTON MEETING FOR THEIR STUDY AND CONSIDERATION.

2. AS NOTED IN OUR PROPOSAL AND AT WASHINGTON MEETING, AS WELL AS IN PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS ON THIS ISSUE, UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED OVER PROSPECT OF NON-ENFORCEMENT OF COMMISSION'S CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND FEELS THAT ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT AND DETECT VIOLATIONS. THE ENFORCEMENT SITUATION AS DETERIORATED IN

RECENT YEARS BECAUSE FLEETS OF ALL COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN FISHERY ARE GROWING LARGER, ESPECIALLY BY ADDITION OF LARGE SEINERS NOT SUBJECT TO CLOSED SEASON ALLOCATIONS, AND BECAUSE THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF NONMEMBER COUNTRY VESSELS OPERATING IN AREA.

3. THE ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM WAS A SERIOUS ONE IN 1973 AND IS EXPECTED TO BE EVEN MORE TROUBLESOME DURING CLOSED SEASON OF 1974. IN LIGHT OF THIS EXPECTATION USG WOULD LIKE TO CALL A SPECIAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON ENFORCEMENT TO BE ATTENDED BY ALL NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC YELLOWFIN TUNA FISHERY. PURPOSE OF MEETING WOULD BE TO CONSIDER MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT VESSELS OF ALL NATIONS INVOLVED ARE OBSERVING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO DETERMINE EXTENT TO WHICH PARTICIPANTS CAN COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. CURRENT THINKING IS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., DURING MAY 29-31.

4. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICES CONCERNED WITH IATTC AFFAIRS AS TO DESIRE OF USG TO HOLD SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT MEETING AND TO SUITABILITY DATES. KISSINGER

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